

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## A TRIBUTE TO ABIE ABRAHAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor Sgt. Abie Abraham, a distinguished veteran of World War II from Butler, PA, who is being recognized this week as the Butler County Veteran of the Year.

Abie Abraham was born on July 31, 1913, in Lyndora, PA, to Syrian immigrants. At an early age, Abie showed perseverance and strength when he set a record in the Guinness Book of World Records for tree-sitting on a wooden platform for 3 months.

In 1932, Abie Abraham enlisted in the U.S. Army. He had been head boxing coach in Panama in 1935, and as a boxer, has a 54-6 record and was light/welterweight champion of the Panama Canal Department. In 1938, he was stationed in the Philippines, with the 31st Infantry Regiment as a platoon sergeant.

Three hours after the invasion of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japanese forces hit the Philippines. After several months of intense fighting in horrible conditions, the Philippines and United States forces surrendered. A lack of food and supplies and exposure to tropical diseases had left the troops weakened when the Japanese took them as prisoners. Sergeant Abraham was on the infamous Bataan Death March during which so many American lives were lost. He was held as a prisoner-of-war from April 9, 1942 to January 31, 1945 until the 6th American Rangers freed the prison camp where what was left of the only infantry regiment stationed in the Philippines was being held. After his release, General MacArthur requested that Sergeant Abraham remain in the Philippines to locate and disinter bodies from the Bataan Death March so that they could be brought home for a proper burial. He remained there until July 1947.

Sergeant Abraham retired as a master sergeant in 1955 with 23 years of service. He had received a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, as well as three Presidential Unit Citations and the Philippine Presidential Award.

After retiring from the Army, Sergeant Abraham worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a road supervisor from 1955 to 1962 before leaving to work for a family business until 1979.

In 1971, Sergeant Abraham wrote "Ghost of the Bataan Speaks" which details his prison camp experience. His book is used in several States to teach the history of World War II. He also personally answers a multitude of inquiries from people all over the world about the Bataan Death March.

In addition to serving his country, Sergeant Abraham has contributed on a local level in his community. In the past 6 years, he has volunteered over 10,000 hours working nearly

8 hours a day, 5 days a week at the VA medical center in Butler, PA. He is the POW-MIA Coordinator at the VAMC and has helped to arrange ceremonies to remember the Americans who were prisoners of war and those who are unaccounted for today. He spends time visiting with patients in the VA medical center as well as trying to resolve complaints and provide assistance to veterans and their families. He was honored in 1994 as the Outstanding Veteran in the State of Pennsylvania by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

He has been a member of the Disabled American Veterans—Chapter No. 64, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Ex-Prisoner's of War, and the American Legion where he continues to be active in veterans issues.

Sergeant Abraham served his country courageously in the face of death and remained true to the soldiers who served with him and lost their lives. He has used his experience to educate others about World War II and to honor the memory of the ones lost. Thankfully, for the community of Butler, PA, Sgt. Abie Abraham survived the horrors of the Bataan Death March and being held in a prison camp. The service that he has continued to give to the veteran community over the years is truly outstanding and worthy of our praise. I am thankful that Sgt. Abie Abraham is a member of our community and that he continues to make a difference in the lives of those he touches.

## HONORING PATRICIA V. ASIP

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Patricia V. Asip on receiving the National Hispanic Corporate Council's [NHCC] Charter Award at the recent 10th anniversary dinner.

Currently serving as the manager of the multicultural affairs at J.C. Penny Co., Inc., Ms. Asip was a founding board member of the NHCC. As the first marketer to join the NHCC, she has spent her professional career showing the American business community the value of the Hispanic market. A leader in the Hispanic community, her desire and efforts in reaching out to the Hispanic market show her to be a truly admirable woman. I would like to commend her on her achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable woman.

## THE WAR ON DRUGS—TIME TO RECOMMIT OUR EFFORTS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, there are those who would like us to believe that we are losing the war on drugs. The truth is that during the Reagan-Bush years drug use in the United States actually dropped by more than 50 percent, from 24 million users in 1979 to 11 million in 1992.

Unfortunately, many of those hard-fought gains have been wasted under President Clinton's watch. The fact is that the trend toward increased drug use, across the board, corresponds directly to President Clinton's term of office. For whatever reason, this President is either unwilling or unable to address this crisis. It is time for congressional leadership.

Reducing the demand for illegal drugs is essential to the most important things common to all Americans: our children and families, our safety and the safety of our children, our health and the economy. The legislation outlined below represents a comprehensive and effective strategy aimed at reducing the demand for illegal drugs:

H.R. 143 requires the pre-employment drug testing of applicants for Federal employment.

H.R. 134 denies certain Federal benefits to convicted drug felons.

H.R. 136 requires random drug testing of all Federal employees.

H.R. 138 requires courts to notify employers of employees' drug convictions.

H.R. 141 suspends Federal education assistance to convicted drug felons.

H.R. 1706 provides quality assurance and expands drug testing in the private sector.

H.R. 135 prohibits federally sponsored research pertaining to the legalization of drugs.

H.R. 147 reduces the minimum quantity of drugs for which a person may be executed.

Drug use and drug addiction cause most of the violence and permeate virtually every social, health, and economic problem we face. Please join in cosponsoring any or all of the above bills by contacting my office.

Mr. Speaker, today I insert into the RECORD a Washington Post story which reports that hospital emergency room visits by cocaine and other drug users are up again.

## EMERGENCY ROOMS TREAT HALF-MILLION DRUG CASES

A half-million Americans wound up in hospital emergency rooms with drug-related problems last year, including a record number with cocaine-related episodes.

Cocaine figured in 23 percent or 142,000 of those emergency visits, up 15 percent from 1993, according to estimates released yesterday by a federal agency that tracks the effect of drug use.

Drug-related episodes were estimated to account for 0.6 percent of the 86 million visits to hospital emergency departments in the United States in 1994. Fifty-five percent of

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